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1967/02/07

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET~~/NODIS/SUNFLOWER

Tuesday, February 7, 1967 -- 8:00 p.m.

Mr. President:

We have a problem: real but soluble.

The British took our proposal of last night and put it into A -- B form; that is:

-- first bombing halt;

-- then simultaneous stopping of infiltration and troop movements.

That is not how we stated it last night; or to Hanoi today.

The reason: we gave Wilson and Brown the A -- B formula and told them to peddle it in Moscow and, again, on this occasion.

I talked with Sec. Rusk and he is confident that if they, in fact, buy the A -- B formula we can work it out to protect our interests.

I believe it can be done if we're short on the time-gap between A and B and mighty hard on verification.

If they buy anything, which I doubt, they'll buy the A -- B formula rather than the tougher formula to Hanoi -- where at lunch we virtually reversed the A and B. But that's a good initial bargaining position to be in -- if bargaining it gets to be.

Walt. Rostow

98-271

Cb 9-28-99

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